

## **Appendix T**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **Research Permitting Process for Inventory and Monitoring Projects Northern Colorado Plateau Network**

##### **I. Background and Purpose**

In response to the Natural Resource Challenge and an increased emphasis on science based management of natural resources, the National Park Service has created 32 networks of parks linked by geography and shared natural resource characteristics to facilitate collaboration, information sharing, and economies of scale in natural resource management. The Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) is comprised of 16 park units in the states of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming: Arches National Park (ARCH); Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (BLCA); Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA); Canyonlands National Park (CANY); Capitol Reef National Park (CARE); Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR); Colorado National Monument (COLM); Curecanti National Recreation Area (CURE); Dinosaur National Monument (DINO); Fossil Butte National Monument (FOBU); Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP); Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE); Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR); Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP); Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA); and Zion National Park (ZION).

The purpose of this agreement is to describe and agree to an operational structure and procedure for processing research permits for inventory and monitoring projects identified in the inventory, monitoring, and vegetation mapping study plans of the Northern Colorado Plateau Network. This agreement will pertain only to projects organized and funded by the network. All other research requests will be routed through the normal process at individual park units. Most individual network research projects will involve multiple park units (up to 16 at a time). This process aims to offer a streamlined and effective process that will facilitate working with investigators across multiple park units, while maintaining the highest level of individual park involvement in the process.

##### **II. Network Research Permit Process**

To implement the process described below, the Northern Colorado Plateau Network, Inventory and Monitoring Program Manager is given the authority to assume the role of 'Research Coordinator' for the network projects. The Superintendent at Canyonlands National Park is delegated the authority to approve/disapprove network inventory and monitoring project research permits on behalf of all 16 park units in the network.

*Step 1. Submit Application.* Using the web-based Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS) the Principal Investigator (PI) submits an application under the Northern Colorado Plateau Network code -- NCPN. An electronic copy of the proposed study plan is also provided by the PI at the time the application is submitted. The NCPN I&M Program Manager (Research Coordinator) is notified by RPRS that the application has been received.

*Step 2. Review and Process Application.* The NCPN I&M Program Manager forwards the application and study plan via email to all parks proposed for inclusion in the network I&M study and requests review and input. Parks are asked to provide: a recommendation on whether or not the project should be implemented; specific conditions that the park wants to have added to the permit; and information on any other specific issues of concern. The NCPN I&M Program Manager will work, as needed, with individual parks and groups of parks in resolving any specific questions or issues that are raised during the review process.

*Step 3. Prepare and Issue Permit.* If the proposed study has the support of all involved parks then the NCPN I&M Program Manager proceeds with compiling the research permit and associated materials. The permit is accompanied by three sets of conditions: general permit conditions; network permit conditions (all communication/coordination based) and park specific permit conditions. The permit form is then completed and a network study number assigned. Once assembled, the CANY Superintendent (with delegated authority) will sign the permit. The permit is then forwarded to the PI for final signature.

*Step 4. Follow-up communication with Parks.* Once the final signed copy of the permit is returned from the PI, the NCPN I&M Program Manager will then distribute copies of the signed permit package to all pertinent parks. Throughout the course of the study the Network Program Manager maintains communication with the individual parks and the PI on matters related to permit administration.

*Step 5. Program Records.*

The I&M Program Manager is responsible for maintaining official documentation and files of research permits issued at the network level.

*Step 6. Investigator Annual Reports.* The NCPN I&M Program Manager works with the PI to ensure that Investigator Annual Report (IARs) are completed for each research project. Parks are notified when IARs have been completed and are available for viewing on the website.

It is recognized that a successful network level permit process requires close coordination and good communication. Therefore, maintaining thorough and regular communication between the network, parks and PIs will be emphasized at all times.

### **III. General Provisions**

*Term of Agreement.* This agreement will remain in effect for five years from the date of the last signature. Any signatory may withdraw from the agreement upon notification of all other signatories.

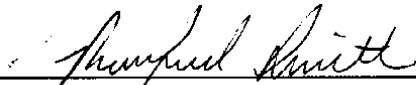
*Amendments.* Any signatories may propose changes to this agreement. Any change will be in the form of an amendment, and will not take effect until all signatories have agreed to and signed the amendment.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**


Research Permitting Process for Inventory and Monitoring Projects - Northern Colorado Plateau Network

**VI. Approval Signatures**


We the following agree to the terms of the above described agreement.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Arches National Park

11/8/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent,  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park  
Curecanti National Recreation Area

11/8/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park


11/8/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park


11/8/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Capitol Reef National Park

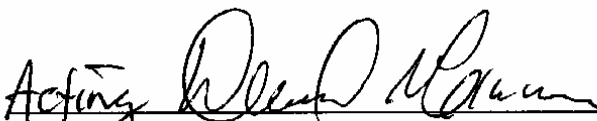
11/8/01  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument

11/8/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Colorado National Monument

11/08/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Dinosaur National Monument

11/08/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Fossil Butte National Monument

11/08/01  
Date

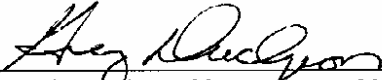
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Research Permitting Process for Inventory and Monitoring Projects  
Northern Colorado Plateau Network

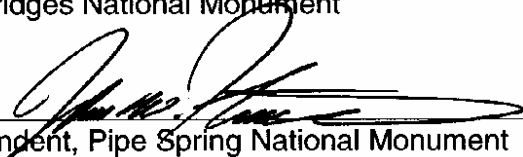
Approval Signatures (Continued)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Golden Spike National Historic Site

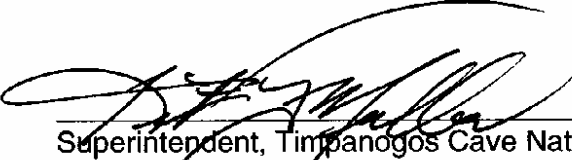
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Hovenweep National Monument  
Natural Bridges National Monument

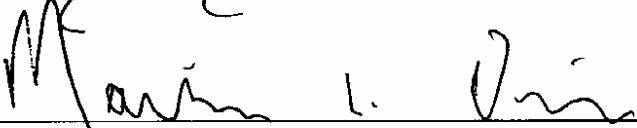
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Pipe Spring National Monument

11/08/01  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Timpanogos Cave National Monument

November 8, 2001  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Zion National Park

11/08/01  
Date